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REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 3, 2005 has been received and carefully studied.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fields, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,351,370.

By the accompanying amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the housing comprises at least one free end extending from an enclosable portion of the housing, and a sack extending from the enclosable portion and having a volume sufficient to contain a portion of said length of strap, the sack being foldable upon the enclosable portion and securable thereon by the at least one free end.

Fields et al. disclose a bootlace storage device. The "sack" 37 of Fields et al. does not extend from an enclosable portion of the housing 10 of Fields; it is a separate pouch that is secured to an outer side wall 25 of the device. Nor is the pouch 37 foldable upon an enclosable portion and securable thereon by at least one free end as now recited in claim 1.

New claims 9-11 have been added to further define the invention.

The allowance of claims 5-8 is noted with appreciation.

The remaining prior art is believed to have been properly not relied upon in rejecting any claim.

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,

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